



SPARK GAP

Vol. 40, Issue 12, December 2023 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

MARC Holiday Party

This Saturday, 12/16 is our annual pitch-In holiday brunch at the Johnson County REMC building in Franklin. Please join us, bring a dish to share and a gift (under \$10, gag gifts and ham related items you no longer need/want are okay) if you want to participate in the gift exchange. Hope to see you all Saturday.

‘Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.

The end-feds were hung from the chimney with care, in hopes that gray line soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of Smith Charts danced in their heads,

Onto the HF for Late Shift DX, in hopes of new countries, or POTA OUS

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my shack to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I raced like a flash, tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.

The moon shown down on the new fallen snow, which cast long shadows from objects below;

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a tall HF tower, and all new HF gear,

Who could have delivered, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good night.

Tim Aldridge, WC9G





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

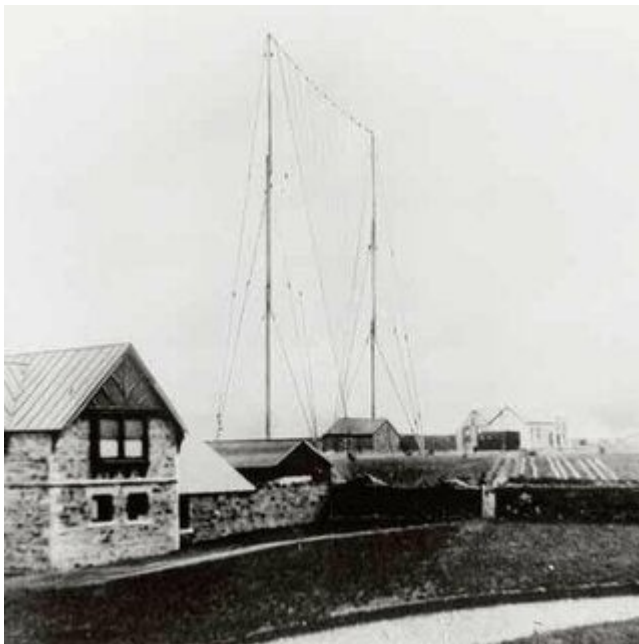
W9HR --- DOUG CHAPMAN

KQ9Y --- CHRIS FREDERICK



HAM LIVING IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT

I offer this strictly for amusement and not because it applies directly to electrical work. A town here has a historic district that has 1890 to 1930 as the designated historical period. Local experience is that they are a runaway aesthetic police force rather than real historic preservation board. They rejected an amateur radio operators request for an exception for his crank up antenna tower that would have only been visible from the street evenings and weekends. At the next radio club meeting he asked if anyone could help him put up his new radio antenna which was going to be a Genuine Marconi Curtain Array. Some of Marconi's earlier experiments in radio had been done using such curtain arrays just after the turn of the nineteenth century between 1900 and 1910. What do you know, that is right within the identified period for the historic district. He had so many volunteers that he had it up in one day. Changes and additions which can be shown to be from the identified historic period do not require historic commission approval. The Radio Operator got a construction permit and proceeded to set up a smaller version of the Marconi antenna array.



It dominated the whole historic district skyline. The commission tried to issue a cease and desist order to get the antenna taken down but enforcement actions had to be approved by the City Solicitor (City's Civil Attorney). She came to the next historic commission meeting and asked the entire commission to tell her who wanted to continue serving on the commission. They all did. That's great she said and turned to the mayor, whom she had warned that he needed to attend, and said "I was wrong Mister Mayor. You won't have to fire all of the

commission's members tonight." She then suggested a corrective motion to protect the city from the inevitable law suit for abuse of authority which contained a very clear apology to the Amateur Radio Operator for requiring him to attend the meeting. She then told the commissioners that if they ever again even considered such a "Because I don't like it. That's why." order again everyone who voted in the affirmative would be dismissed from the commission by the town council by the end of the following day. By the time that lady was done with them they had a brand new understanding of the limits of their authority. She took the Amateur Radio Operator out for dinner at a really nice restaurant at the city's expense and asked if he still wanted the exception for the crank up tower which would support a modern rotating high power antenna for effective radio communications. He said he definitely did. She told him he had it and she would have it to him in formal written form by the end of the following day. The City Council met in a called session and unanimously passed his appeal of the commissions previous actions. He hadn't even filed one, but the council was not the least bit troubled by that. It seems that funny things happen when the city's attorney tells the mayor and council that one of the city's commissions was about to involve the city in a law suit that she could never win that would cost the city many thousands of dollars just to defend against the suit, and the damages would only be limited by the skill of the plaintiff's attorneys. She had also learned that the American Radio Relay League; which is the nationally recognized association of Amateur Radio Operators; had some pretty heavy hitters on their volunteer attorney roster who just loved to slap around local governments which abuse their power.

..... Thanks Chris, KQ9Y for this interesting article.



ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines to Communicate RF Safety

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations. The ARRL RF Safety Committee, with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.

Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, *Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions*, was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety.

“Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe,” Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.

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WINTER FIELD DAY 2024

JANUARY 27 – 28, 2024

WFD is always on the last full weekend of January, beginning at 19:00 UTC on Saturday and running through 18:59 on Sunday.

You can operate on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands and all bands above 50 MHz.

To be considered for scoring, all participants must submit their log entries before 11:59 UTC on March 1st. All logs must be submitted in the Cabrillo format and contain the proper exchange data. Late entries cannot be accepted.

WFD participation and results are tallied and posted on the website for future reference. Our goal is to have logs scored by May 30th and posted the first week of June.

For more information about Winter Field Day 2024 check out their web site:

<https://winterfieldday.org/>

ARRL Advocacy Win: FCC Approves Request for Pearl Harbor Day Crossband Operations

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® sought a waiver on behalf of the activators, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted it. The waiver allows amateur radio operators to participate in a special event commemorating the 82nd annual National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA), with authority from the US Navy and Southwest Marine Corps Spectrum Office, will honor the sailors and ships previously homeported in San Pedro, California, who were attacked on December 7, 1941. There will be special crossband activations of NEPM, Battleship Iowa's original call sign, on December 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2023.

Using the call sign NEPM, the club will transmit on assigned military frequencies and listen for calls from the amateur radio community on their adjacent bands. NEPM will transmit on 14.375, 18.170, and/or 21.856 MHz on J3E/USB and/or A1A/CW. The club operator will tell participating hams where BIARA will be listening, which will be 10 KHz below the top of each adjacent band when working J3E/USB, or 10 KHz above the bottom of each adjacent band when working A1A/CW. Amateur participants are reminded not to transmit on the NEPM military frequencies. Operations on all 4 days are expected to be from 0700 to 1600 PST (1500 to 2400 UTC).

The FCC stated the grant of the waiver meets the second prong of the waiver standard in section 1.925(b)(3)(ii) in that the event presents a unique opportunity for the amateur and military communities to practice communication skills under the guidance of military officials, which may be useful in the future and serves the public interest.

In addition to the skills gained by amateur operators participating in the test, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day has historical significance. It emphasizes the importance of reliable communications and the need to be vigilant in national defense.

If amateur radio operators who wish to participate are licensed in a country outside the US, BIARA advises to check the terms and conditions that govern their respective licenses.

QSL procedures can be found at <https://biara.org>. For specific questions before the operation, email w6hb@biara.org.

..... *ARRL News December 2023*



A Merry Christmas

You're in my Christmas circuit
And on the waves of thought
A Happy Christmas and New Year
To you is gladly brought.

MERRY CHRISTMAS 1924

New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released Effective July 1, 2024

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028.

The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, and member of the NCVEC QPC, said, "The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version. We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevancy to today's amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, 82 new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction [of] the number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced."

Somma advised that "the newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June."

Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of *The ARRL Extra Class License Manual* or the 5th edition of *ARRL's Extra Q & A* are encouraged to test on or before June 30, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024.

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CLUB DUES FOR 2024

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is \$25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2024.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

\$10 DOWN - \$10 A MONTH



A Spectacular Christmas Gift!
\$99⁹⁵

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Air-O-Ear Model 711-WN

NEW 4 Band Aircraft Radio



BAND 1

VHF Hear Aircraft... right in your own home or office. Tune in giant jets, business and private planes (*even your own!*), and towers. Hear what pilots say when the weather is bad and there is fog, snow or icing conditions. Sharpen up your VHF radio procedures by listening to experts. Learn what goes on during an EMERGENCY.



BAND 2

LOW FREQUENCY Weather Band. Monitors continuous aviation weather reports for 200 miles around. **24-hour-a-day weather information.** Broadcast by the U.S. Weather Bureau... gives winds aloft, cloud conditions, PIREPS and forecasts. Makes the Air-O-Ear a real necessity for every pilot and boat owner.



BAND 3

SHORTWAVE Picks up police broadcasts, marine radio-telephone, ship-to-shore and ship-to-ship, Coast Guard, radio amateurs, government services, foreign broadcasts. **Receives L.F. aircraft transmissions on 3023.5.** This police-marine band brings you many added hours of fascinating listening.



BAND 4

STANDARD BROADCAST Music and News. Brings you all of your favorite radio programs. Powerful circuit delivers full, rich sound reproduction. Provides enjoyment for the whole family.

Testimonials

"...very impressed with performance..."
Federal Aviation Agency
"...send us 10 more Air-O-Ear Receivers..."
K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines
"...use it for weather, general enjoyment, and to learn the language used in aviation..."
E. Brown, Portsmouth, Ohio
"...our set is operated 24 hours a day and gives us very satisfactory service..."
George Crockett, Alamo Airways, Las Vegas, Nevada
"...excellent... I certainly would recommend the Air-O-Ear V.H.F. home receiver to other aviation enthusiasts..."
Kay Buckley, Franklin Park, Ill.
"...the Air-O-Ear V.H.F. receiver has met with our greatest expectations. Many of our members have written to us expressing their complete satisfaction."
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Assn. (A.O.P.A.)

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MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

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857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.



Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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